

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A garnish for attaching to a vehicle body portion in cooperation with a weather strip seal and a plurality of seal clips, said garnish having a first end and a second end and having at least one fore slot formed therein proximate the first end, and at least one aft slot formed therein proximate the second end;

said garnish defining a profile between the first and second ends for partially covering said vehicle body portion, wherein said profile comprises an upper edge portion for placement above the vehicle body portion, a hook-shaped lower edge portion for substantially surrounding a lower edge of the vehicle body portion, and a bridge section disposed between the crown and hook portions;

said garnish being alignable in registry with the weather strip seal and with the vehicle body portion, such that for each of the respective fore and aft slots, a single clip attached to said weather strip seal can be inserted through the slot in the garnish and into a hole formed in the vehicle body portion, to attach both the garnish and the weather strip seal thereto.

2. (Currently Amended) A garnish for attaching to a vehicle body portion in cooperation with a weather strip seal and a plurality of seal clips, said garnish having a first end and a second end and having at least one fore slot formed therein proximate the first end, and at least one aft slot formed therein proximate the second end;

said garnish defining a profile between the first and second ends for partially covering said vehicle body portion;

said garnish being alignable in registry with the weather strip seal and with the vehicle body portion, such that for each of the respective fore and aft slots, a single clip attached to said weather strip seal can be inserted through the slot in the garnish and into a hole formed in the vehicle body portion, to attach both the garnish and the weather strip seal thereto;

The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said vehicle body portion is a door sash frame which forms an upper part of the vehicle door.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said garnish has a first tab with an eyelet formed therein attached to said first end, and a second tab with an eyelet formed therein attached to said second end thereof.

4. . (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the garnish comprises integral front and rear attachment flanges, with [[said]] a plurality of fore slots formed in said front attachment flange, and [[said rear]] a plurality of aft slots formed in said rear attachment flange.

5. (Original) A vehicle comprising the garnish of claim 1.

6. (Original) A door sealing apparatus for a vehicle door sash frame with a plurality of apertures formed therein, the assembly comprising:

a weather strip seal for attachment to the door sash frame, said weather strip seal having a plurality of spaced-apart openings formed therein;

a garnish having a first end with a plurality of fore slots formed therein, and having a second end with plurality of aft slots formed therein, said fore and aft slots of said garnish being alignable in registry with said openings of said weather strip seal; and

a plurality of seal clips for affixing the outer weather strip seal and garnish to the door sash frame apertures, said seal clips being operatively attachable to the weather strip seal at the openings thereof;

wherein said garnish and weather strip seal are constructed and arranged to allow projecting portions of the seal clips to pass through the garnish slots, and to enter and lodge in the door sash frame apertures, thereby securing both the outer weather strip seal and garnish to the door sash frame.

7. (Original) A vehicle comprising the apparatus of claim 6.

8. (Original) A kit of components for attachment to a door sash frame having a plurality of apertures formed therein, comprising:

a garnish having a first end and a second end, each of said first and second ends having a plurality of fore slots formed therein, said garnish defining a profile between the first and second ends for friction fitting to the door sash frame and for covering a portion of the door sash frame;

a weather strip seal for attachment to the door sash frame, and

a plurality of seal clips for attachment to slots in the door sash frame, said seal clips being operatively attachable to said weather strip seal;

wherein the seal clips comprise projecting portions which are operable to penetrate the respective fore and aft slots of the garnish and to lodge in the apertures of the door sash frame.

9. (Original) A method of attaching a garnish and a weather strip seal to a vehicle body portion, comprising the steps of:

a) placing said garnish in contact with said vehicle body portion, with slots in said garnish aligned with corresponding apertures in said vehicle body portion, wherein said garnish has a first end and a second end,

b) operatively attaching a plurality of seal clips to said weather strip seal with projecting portions of said seal clips extending outwardly away from said seal; and

c) inserting said projecting portions of respective seal clips through the slots in said garnish and into the apertures in said vehicle body portion;

whereby said seal clips operatively attach and secure both the garnish and the outer weather strip seal to the vehicle body portion.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of attaching respective tabs at the front and rear of said garnish to said door sash frame.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of installing said seal clips into said weather strip seal comprises the steps of:

stretchably deforming an opening in the weather strip seal,
inserting an anchor portion of a seal clip into the opening in the seal, and
allowing the seal to return to its normal configuration with the seal clip
installed thereon.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of said slots is situated near the first end of said garnish, and at least one of said slots is situated near the second end of said garnish.